FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 FEBRUARY 1987

Lebanon

Hostage Crisis — U.S. hostage Alan Steen warned that the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) is "serious" in intending to kill its four hostages if Israel fails to release 400 Palestinians 9 February. In a video cassette message carried by AFP, Steen urged the United States to "order" Israel to release the Palestinians, adding that "we will be probably killed" if the United States commits any "stupidity."

However, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told IDF radio that Israel "cannot and will not act according to ultimatums," adding that anyone with "proposals" should appeal to Israel in an "orderly" manner and Israel will give an orderly reply. Asked about an offer by Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri to exchange a captured Israeli pilot for Palestinian prisoners, Peres stressed that the matter should not be handled through the media. At a 7 February news conference in Damascus, the Amal leader had proposed a 3-way exchange in which Amal would release the pilot, the IJLP would free its 4 hostages, and Israel would release 400 Palestinians, according to Beirut radio. Birri also said he expects that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite will be released soon. Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt warned that he will reveal those responsible for detaining Waite if the latter is not released soon, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. A report that Waite had already been released remained unconfirmed, AFP noted. The agency also reported a claim by the "Organization of Revolutionary Justice" (ORJ) that Waite has been sending the West information on his location by using a "transmitter inside his body." The ORJ warned that a U.S. rescue attempt will endanger the lives of its three hostages, two of whom are Americans.

Camps War — Beirut radio reported an escalation of fighting in Beirut over the weekend, stating that 18 people were killed and 100 wounded. The Shi'ite southern suburb came under artillery fire from Palestinian emplacements on the mountain, the radio said, and artillery in East Beirut joined in the bombardment 9 February. Radio Monte Carlo reported that Birri and Palestinian leaders were involved in fresh talks under Syrian auspices 8 February, but the radio gave no indication that progress was made. The Palestinians accused Amal of "paralyzing the solution," while Birri stressed that Amal's siege of Palestinian camps will not be lifted until Amal is allowed to return to all its former positions in Maghdushah. The critical situation of Palestinians in the besieged camps was confirmed by the PLO representative in France, who told Paris radio that residents in Burj al-Barajinah have little food and have eaten cats and dogs to survive.

Israeli Interception of "Terrorists" — The Israeli Navy arrested 50 Fatah "terrorists" who were found aboard a merchant ship intercepted 6 February while sailing from Cyprus to Khaldah, south of Beirut, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. The Israeli Navy commander told Jerusalem television that the Fatah men were unarmed and were travelling on forged passports. Their objective was to obtain arms in Lebanon and carry out terrorist acts, he maintained. He also disclosed that the Egyptian crew of the ship is being detained and interrogated in Israel. While the commander stressed that Israel is not preventing food and medicine from reaching the refugee camps in Lebanon, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio broadcast a PLO statement accusing the Israelis of confiscating supplies bound for the camps.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation — Iraqi communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio reported further air strikes on Iran 6-7 February. Targets included Qom, Tabriz, Esfahan, and Arak, as well as oil installations, military camps, and a Hawk missile battery. IRNA said the "barbarous" attacks caused casualties and disclosed that Tabriz University was damaged in one raid. Iran fired missiles at the Iraqi city of Khanaqin 6 and 7 February, according to the agency, and the War Information Headquarters subsequently issued another warning to Baghdad residents of an imminent attack on the Iraqi capital.

Iraqi communiques also reported that Iraqi planes raided a maritime target 7 February and that the Iraqi Navy destroyed an Iranian boat in the northern Gulf the following day. Iraq denied Iranian claims to have shot down three Iraqi planes over the weekend, according to INA.

Regarding the situation at the battlefront near Basra, IRNA reported that Iranian forces smashed an Iraqi counteroffensive 7 February, killing or wounding 700 Iraqi soldiers. Iraqi communiques claimed that Iraq's VII Corps inflicted similar casualties on the Iranians over the weekend.

Iranian Air Force — The Iranian Air Force commander and other Air Force personnel renewed their "covenant" with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni during an 8 February meeting reported by Tehran radio. The radio broadcast an address to the airmen by President 'Ali Khamene'i, who told them of Khomeyni's recommendation that Armed Forces personnel should be vigilant in identifying any of their colleagues who are "not willing to ensure that the Armed Forces are an independent, proud, revolutionary force" on the side of the people. Khamene'i praised the Air Force's "outstanding and decisive" combat role, and he lauded the antiaircraft defenses for downing "more than 150" Iraqi aircraft in the last year. The president acknowledged that the airmen have "performed so many services despite the fact that they have not received the necessary support," but he stressed the goal of self-sufficiency, noting that Iran is unwilling to be dictated to by others just because they possess technological supremacy. The radio also broadcast a speech by the Air Force commander, who said the force has used "new methods" in the past year, adding that steps to maximize self-sufficiency will "considerably increase combat capabilities."

Iraqi Air Power — Citing "well-informed sources" in London, the Jordanian paper *Al-Dustur* reported that the USSR has supplied Iraq with 40 MiG-29 aircraft and has promised to deliver another 40.

Iran

Foreign Policy — Ayatollah Khomeyni's recent message "was one of exporting the revolution," and Iran's foreign policy will continue to rely on this "genuine principle," Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stressed in remarks reported by Tehran radio 8 February. Musavi also criticized "regional political figures" who have made "fruitless" proposals for mediation between Iran and the United States.

Foreigners in Iran — The authorities released Canadian engineer Philip Engs 8 February, AFP reported, adding that the Danish Embassy is trying to secure his rapid departure from Iran. Earlier, IRNA cited a *Keyhan* report on British prisoner Roger Cooper's interview with Iranian television in which he "confessed to having been a spy" working for the British Government. AFP noted that Cooper made similar statements in a second interview, televised 7 February.

Kuwait

The interior minister informed the cabinet 8 February that the security authorities have arrested one of five men wanted in connection with a recent explosion in Kuwait, KUNA reported. The prime minister told Kuwaiti officers the previous day that "strayed and perverted persons" were responsible for the attempts to sabotage Kuwaiti oil installations, according to Kuwait radio. He warned that Kuwait will show no leniency toward any group that undermines its security, adding that "we will cut off any hand that tries to stab us from behind."

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad received Soviet official Karen Brutents, who delivered a letter from Mikhail Gorbachev and expressed support for Syria's "principled stands," Damascus television reported 7 February.

Libya-Chad

At the end of a 5-day visit during which he met with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Sudanese State Council Member 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din emphasized that Sudan shares Libya's concern over the internationalization of the Chadian conflict, Tripoli radio reported 8 February.

Former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei arrived in Algiers 8 February, Paris radio reported. As for the military situation in Chad, a Chadian communique cited by AFP reported that government forces killed 12 Libyans at Oueita 8 February. A communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio 7 February announced that 19 Libyan soldiers were killed when government troops repelled an attack on Zouar.

DRA-Iran

The DRA submitted a protest note to Iran over President 'Ali Khamene'i's meeting with Afghan opposition leaders in Tehran, BAKHTAR reported. The note accused Iran of continuing its "direct intervention" in the DRA's internal affairs and urged Iranian leaders to reconsider their "provocative and hostile" policy toward the DRA.

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Najibullah Addresses Reconciliation Bodies
LD061030 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 5 Feb 87

["Text" of speech delivered "today" by PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Najib at the session of the Presidium of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation of the DRA and heads of the extraordinary commissions of national reconciliation for the capital and provinces — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Esteemed Hatef, dear and esteemed friends: A time of hard, complicated, and unparalleled work, the month of Jadi, has elapsed. We have done much work in the capital. We held the extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, the session of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission of National Reconciliation, and the second Congress of the DRA National Front. Our understanding of national reconciliation has been enriched noticeably. We have not started (?imaginary) experiences but have begun work experiences.

During the month, hundreds of armed groups joined the state, and thousands of emigres returned home. The amnesty decree was enforced, as a result of which large groups of prisioners are being released. Some 690 commissions were established in the provinces, cities, districts, subdistricts, and villages.

The Central Committee, Politburo, government, and the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation all have reason to announce that the national reconciliation policy and its practical implementation elicited enthusiasm among all people and received the support of workers, peasants, soldiers, officers, intellectuals, women and youths, our friends, and all progressive forces.

The idea of national reconciliation also has certain effects on opponents of the revolution. The more deeply involved we became in this work, the more its power and importance became obvious, and to the same extent, new difficulties, which need to be solved, were revealed further.

It is necessary to strongly reiterate that national reconciliation is a vital need for the present stage of the national and democratic revolution and the PDPA. National reconciliation is a historic step by our people and is a political and brave initiative by the PDPA, which is not only nationally important, but internationally important too. National reconciliation is a social and political phenomenon. It is a requirement for the creation of an Afghanistan with territorial integrity and independence that is nonaligned and free. This path, the path to achieve the goal of peace, can be reached not through military or forceful measures, but by using political measures. National reconciliation is a concept that is very understandable to ordinary people. This idea is understandable. Why? Because our people are tired of war. It is also important that the reconciliation idea conforms with the people's customs and traditions.

Finally, reconciliation conforms with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam. If the word of Islam is translated from the Arab language it means living and peace. But, those who announce that we proposed the idea of reconciliation because of our weakness are making a great mistake. I want to point out that only those who have a powerful military and economic bastion and enjoy the secure support of people can propose reconciliation.

The final aim of reconciliation is to achieve peace in our land. This is why the idea of peace is our basic (?mission). This (?mission) will open the way for all obstacles; but these obstacles are not limited.

The Reagan administration and his servants, who spread lies and accusations about national reconciliation, shout that national reconciliation is a trap for the mujahidin, an empty thought for the Afghan Army, and even that a vain aim. The opponents of revolution even compete with their masters in slandering reconciliation.

We have said several times that national reconciliation is a comprehensive, complex program that contains many components including the cease-fire, the gradual return of the limited Soviet military contingents, the issue of emigres, the creation of the coalition organs of state power, the assessment and approval of the new constitution, creation of conditions for national economic growth, an increase in the grants-in-aid, and a number of other questions.

We assess some important aspects of these [words indistinct]. The DRA Armed Forces according to the Revolutionary Council's statement stopped combat operations 21 days ago and ceased fire.

The forces have returned to their permanent position for the time being. Measures were taken in connection with the enhancement of the awareness of combat capabilities and the organization of combat and political training and education of the [word indistinct].

Attacks on the administrative centers, posts, and the garrisons of Soviet-Afghan forces and terrorist activities against transportation are continuing.

You are all aware of the explosion near the Indian Embassy. The enemy has taken an approach and mode of behavior that we have expected from them. They are striving to make the situation deteriorate and to destabilize the situation, destroy the reconciliation, and to [word indistinct] our policy.

Disagreements and the process of [word indistinct] have begun in the leadership of the opponents. [passage indistinct]

We declare that those who do not reconcile. and who speak to us again with the language of machine guns, rocket launchers, and mortars, are [word indistinct] of a deadly response. [passage indistinct]

Only those who stand against reconciliation will be punished. But life shows that our policy has the great backing of the people, opponents, [as heard] and emigres. The DRA Government expressing patience, has not yet made a reciprocal military response, but, the enemy is forcing us to open fire reciprocally.

Those who escaped and those who return are the pain in our heart and our bleeding wound. The true patriot has never left his country and has struggled inside his country for realizing his aim and does not go abroad to shout about them. Unfortunately, it has happened like that.

The return of emigres is the most complicated problem. This problem leaves the following issue before us: Those who return to the cities have many problems that should be solved. Very soon, special villages will be established for the emigres, where they will stay for some time while their documents are being arranged.

Work places are necessary for the emigres' industry, construction, agriculture, and (?services). Emigres' children should be given the opportunity to be educated free of charge; including being given scholarships to study abroad. They should take advantage of technical assistance and social and cultural facilitie — that is, they should have the right to use all our social amenities.

There are different types of emigres: those who are in prison in Pakistan and Iran's camps, needing urgent financial assistance. We will offer this assistance. This issue cannot be solved only with state resources. The aid of the people is needed in this connection. Account number 50,000 has been opened creating a reconciliation fund for the emigres.

A good example of people providing aid is the inhabitants of Gardez, who have taken upon themselves all the issues related to food and housing for emigres for up to 6 months. This action conforms with our traditions.

Many tasks have been done in Jalalabad: A tent camp was created for 400 people.

The issue of emigres is a great task. Long-term as well as urgent issues are embodied in it. There should be no delay in solving them. It is because of this that the Department for Emigre Affairs has been opened within the framework of the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

We should not ignore foreign policy spheres in solving the emigre problem. The Foreign Affairs Ministry and the international affairs section of the Central Committee should actively use the foreign policy resources. According to figures in the UN journal on emigres and a similar daily, the Afghan emigres live an abject life in Pakistan and have been denied the most ordinary human rights. The number of children dying there is at the highest world level in the world.

According to the norms of international law, the convention on the emigres' condition dated 28 July 1951, the relevant protocol on the condition of the emigres dated 16 December 1966, Pakistan should provide normal living conditions for these emigres and should not prevent them from returning voluntarily to their home, the DRA.

National reconciliation should not only have the [words indistinct] but also economic. The solution of our economic problems is related directly to the implementation of the tasks of the 5-year plan of each establishment and province. [passage omitted]

I want to point out another issue. The key for solving most of the special issues is embodied in the tribes and in their relationship with state sovereignty. We should know that tribes are not only a sphere of attention and [word indistinct], but also the basic ground for the activities of opponents of the revolution and reaction. While we work irregularly in the tribal regions, the opponents are carrying out their work every day. We have sometimes been defeated in this important sphere. Victory cannot be reached only by wishing for it. We must work among tribes and struggle to get to the people's hearts and minds. It is necessary to know tribal life, difficulties, and needs. Who could better carry this out than the trained people among these tribes? There are many such people in the Central Committee, in the state apparatus, and in the ministries. Why are these people not reporting and saying: I am from this tribe and I want to work in my birthplace. It is obvious that talks with tribal representatives in Kabul offices is easier, more suitable, and less dangerous. But, practical results are necessary for us. These results are being achieved in places where the revolutionary practice is in [word indistinct].

We should be true and enthusiastic workers in the Ministry of Tribes and Nationalities, and should have credit among the people and be able to teach the people the experiences of their work.

Our revolution was created with the slogan: Equality for all nationalities, tribes, and clans. This is its most important achievement. Presently we are busy with the [word indistinct] armed struggle against foreign armed aggression; the problems of the national relations are being left in the dark, in a way. [passage indistinct]

I think it is wrong; problems exist. If we do not think about them, they will bring very serious consequences. [sentence indistinct]

I want to seriously warn our ministers and other officials that the old policy based on putting one nationality against other tribes, giving concessions to one against another one, does not have any common ground with either the aims of our revolution or with reconciliation. Nationalism and tribal chauvinism are the weapons of the opponents of revolution, the weapons of the enemy. To allow this means open assistance to our enemy. We are also thinking about some other issues of national structure. We will issue our program in this regard very soon.

Under the conditions of reconciliation, the issues of transferring the grants-in-aid that arrive from the Soviet Union are at the top of the [word indistinct].

A resolution by the Politburo and Council of Ministers has been approved in this connection. The aim of this is to design a mechanism for distributing the grants-in-aid among the people. My aim is for the grants-in-aid to reach the people. Around 75 percent of the grant-in-aid [should be distributed] by the propaganda units of the Armed Forces and the rest by the local organs of state power.

Why the great aid of the people of the Soviet Union in the growth of the economy, culture, and training of national cadres have been [word indistinct]?

Afghans eat Soviet food every day. Thousands of people have been educated in the Soviet Union. Do we remember this? Are the people aware of this? Why should there not be a sign about selling the grant-in-aid from the USSR in those shops where coupon foodstuffs are being sold? This applies to the villages where seeds, grains, and chemical fertilizer are distributed. where there is a Soviet health clinic, it should be posted there: "Soviet health assistance is (?offered) free."

Now I should say a few words about international issues. We should say clearly that such interest has not always been shown for the DRA throughout history. All the world writes and talks about our historic step. At the end of the month, 93 foreign journalists arrived in Kabul. We gave eight press conferences and dozens of interviews for journalists. A big group of foreign journalists will arrive in our country soon.

Our program on national reconciliation was supported comprehensively by the people of the Soviet Union and all the socialist countries. The leadership of friendly India, who plays a great role in the matter of peace in our region, officially backed the DRA's initiative on national reconciliation. All the peace-loving countries, most of the nonaligned countries, and several international organizations and conferences considered the DRA's policy on national reconciliation the only correct and effective policy.

This policy has been supported by our Baluchi and Pashtun brothers on the other side of the border. They have promised their solidarity and their assistance as always. Our initiative had a positive effect on the climate of the fifth Islamic conference organization meeting recently held in Kuwait.

We are sure that our policy, based on reconciliation, will have a useful effect on the Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan, which are due to resume, with the UN secretary general's representative. Meanwhile, we know very well that national reconciliation contradicts with strategic aims of the United States in the region. The United States has asked its allies to increase their military power, and shows itself as an example in this matter. All could be understood from the U.S. efforts to send Stinger rockets into Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the Pakistani and Iranian authorities are creating an obstacle for reconciliation goals.

Recently, the DRA demanded these countries to allow special flights for Afghan aircraft to transport those who are interested in returning to the homeland. No reply has yet been received.

Despite all the hostile activities, we will go ahead along the path we have chosen. This matter will help us on the one hand, to achieve our humanitarian and sacred aim — that is to ensure a national nationwide peace through national reconciliation — and on the other hand, to reveal the shameful faces of those who want, through the continuation of bloodshed in Afghanistan and the fanning of tension in the region, to achieve financial and political benefits. [passage omitted]

During the past 2 weeks, the head of the extraordinary commission of Qandahar Province was kidnapped, and the head of the extraordinary commission of Konduz Province martyred. Of course, there are many difficulties; further efforts are needed.

Dear friends, we should not forget that we bring prosperity to the people. Our work is a humanitarian task and every Afghan needs it. We give peace, life, and prosperity to the fathers and mothers with your honest work. We have begun a great task. We will bring peace and tranquility to our destroyed country. We want to see the smile of the little children once again. We fight for peace and justice and therefore victory is ours. We wish you further successes.

Canada's Joe Clark Arrives on 1-Week Visit

BK051301 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Text] The Canadian foreign minister, Mr Joe Clark, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon on a week's visit to this country. He was received at the airport by the minister for external affairs, Mr N.D. Tiwari. Talking to newsmen, Mr Clark said he expects to sign an extradition treaty with India during his visit. Some other agreements on increasing commercial links between the two countries are also likely to be signed. During his stay, Mr Clark will have talks with the external affairs minister and will call on the president, the vice president, and the prime minister.

Extradition Treaty Signed

BK061255 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] India and Canada signed an extradition treaty in New Delhi today. The external affairs ministers of the two countries, Mr N.D. Tiwari and Mr Joe Clark, signed this first formal agreement between them to process and provide for extradition.

The treaty is based on well established principles of law of extradition and has provisions which are sufficiently reflective of current concern about terroristic activities.

Briefing newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that to be eligible for extradition the conduct should be an offense both under the laws of India and Canada. Any offense punishable with imprisonment by more than 1 year under the laws of both India and Canada would be eligible for extradition. Even offenses relating to taxation, revenue, and others of purely fiscal character would also be eligible for extradition.

Further Details on Treaty

BK061705 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Excerpts] India and Canada signed an extradition treaty in New Delhi today. The external affairs ministers of the two countries, Mr N.D. Tiwari and Mr Joe Clark, signed the agreement to process and provide for extradition. [passage omitted]

The treaty specifies a list of more serious offenses which shall not be regarded as political offenses or offenses of political character for purposes of extradition. These include offenses against safety of civil aviation, unlawful seizure of aircraft, crimes against internationally protected persons including diplomatic agents, and offenses related to terrorism. The serious offenses also cover those relating to firearms, weapons, explosives or dangerous substances, and murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, hostage taking, and assault causing physical harm. The spokesman said extradition is possible for all such offenses whether committed before or after the treaty comes into force.

Clark on Fighting Terrorism

BK071332 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] The visiting Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, Mr Joe Clark, today reaffirmed his government's determination not to allow Canada to be used as a haven for terrorists.

Speaking in New Delhi, he said newcomers from India intend on using violence for political aims are taken very seriously, though their number is small. The threat they represent has become one of our major security priorities.

He said the extradition treaty signed yesterday is an example of joint Indo-Canadian determination to fight terrorism.

Afghan Foreign Minister Wakil Arrives in Delhi

LD082126 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA minister of foreign affairs, heading a delegation, arrived in New Delhi at about 1830 yesterday for talks and exchange of views with the authorities of friendly India. The minister of foreign affairs and his accompanying delegation was welcomed at Indira Gandhi Airport by India's Minister of Foreign Affairs N.D. Tiwari; Indian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Kabul His Excellency A. Khosla; a number of high ranking officials of the Indian Foreign Ministry; and the DRA ambassador and members of the embassy in New Delhi.

Replying to questions from reporters in New Delhi's Indira Gandhi Airport, Comrade Abdol Wakil said: Powerful cultural, economic, and political links between Afghanistan and India and coexistence and cooperation between the people's of the two countries have existed for decades. The PDPA and the DRA Government, under the leadership of PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Najib, recognizing the special importance of the consolidation of Afghan-Indian relations, will utilise all possibilities for the expansion of these links. Our people follow with great interest the spectacular progress of the people of the Republic of India under the leadership of His Excellency Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. We wish them a prosperous future.

In reply to another question, Comrade Wakil said that the national reconciliation program declared by the PDPA and the DRA for ending the bloodshed and fratricide, has received a warm welcome from our people inside and outside the country and from our friends in the region and the world. The aim of this program, the first step of which is a cease-fire, is the creation of nationwide peace and security in the country.

Comrade Abdol Wakil also praised the efforts of the Indian Government for a peaceful solution of the situation and the easing of tension on the border of that country with Pakistan.

According to another report Foreign Minister Comrade Abdol Wakil, who is leading a delegation on a visit to the Republic of

India, took part in a luncheon today given in his honor by Indian Minister of Foreign Affairs N.D. Tiwari. Members of the DRA delegation; DRA Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Delhi Abdol Samad Azhar; members of the Indian Parliament; high-ranking officials and political and social personalities of that country also took part in the luncheon. Speeches were made at the lunch by the ministers of foreign affairs of the two countries.

Comrade Abdol Wakil emphasized in his statement the ancient historical, cultural, and religious links between the two countries, and positively assessed the friendly relations and mutual cooperation between the DRA and India.

The minister of foreign affairs thanked the Government and people of India for their support for the program of national reconciliation in the DRA and said that national reconciliation is, in fact, a precise and timely response to the vital demands of our people. The minister of foreign affairs expressed hope that the friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, would be further expanded and consolidated in the future.

The Indian minister of foreign affairs emphasized the importance of friendly relations and cooperation between the DRA and India, and said India desires an expansion and further consolidation of these relations in the future. He reiterated the support of the Government of India for the program of national reconciliation announced by the PDPA and DRA Government.

Condemns 'Terrorist Activities'

BK081559 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Excerpts] The Afghanistan foreign minister, Mr Abdol Wakil, has strongly condemned all kinds of terrorism. Expressing concern over terrorist activities by individuals, groups, and states, Mr Wakil said Afghanistan is also a victim of this. He was speaking at a lunch hosted by the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, in his honor in New Delhi today. [passage omitted]

Mr N.D. Tiwari in his welcome address said India is opposed to all forms of interference and intervention in Afghanistan. He said there could be no military solution to this very complicated problem. India stands for a negotiated political settlement which would take into account the legitimate interests of all concerned.

Gandhi, Tiwari Briefed on Sri Lankan Situation

BK061259 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, briefed the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today about the recent developments on the latest situation in Sri Lanka. The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. Natwar Singh; and the minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram; were present. Mr Dixit is returning to Colombo tonight.

End to 'Military Action' Needed

BK070858 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] India has conveyed to Sri Lanka that the search for a peaceful political settlement to the island's ethnic conflict can move ahead only if Colombo reaffirms its commitment to the December 19th proposals. It is also necessary to put an end to military action and economic blockade which have resulted in immense suffering and loss of life of innocent Tamil civilians.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that India's concern was conveyed to the Sri Lankan high commissioner, Mr Tilakaratne, who called on the minsiter of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh.

Referring to the recent Sri Lankan military operations which have resulted in the death of several civilians, Mr Natwar Singh told the envoy that the killing coming in the wake of actions like the blockade of Jaffna has caused serious concern in India and also resulted in strong public misgivings. The Sri Lankan high commissioner was told that the Indian high commissioner in Colombo had been instructed to convey the Government of India's serious concern at these developments to the president, Mr Jayewardene.

SRI LANKA

Security Forces Advance, Battle 'Terrorists'

BK070759 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0732 GMT 7 Feb 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 07(LANKA PUWATH) — The security forces from Vasavilan Vand Palaly camps in northern Sri Lanka cleared terrorist fortifications, mortar launching pads in Thellipilai and surrounding areas today, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH.

The security forces advanced from the Kattuwan junction on the Palaly Jaffna road and destroyed terrorist bunkers, mines, and booby traps. Bulldozers were brought out to fill anti-vehicle ditches and dug outs constructed by the terrorists.

All terrorist fortifications around Kurumbasetty, Thelipillai, and Poonalai Kattuwan areas were destroyed after a short engagement with the terrorists in which four terrorists were killed and six others severely wounded. The security forces met with no resistance.

The security forces by-passed villages in their advance and did not pursue terrorists who ran into the villages. No village was searched or attacked by the security forces. The forces have now returned to their camps.

Meanwhile, today, the security forces advanced from the chest clinic area along the Jaffna Vadukodai road and fanned out to the north west and south east and cleared an area of roughly one square mile. Brick walls recently erected by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and over 14 concrete bunkers, other fortified positions, and mortar launching sites were destroyed whilst dug outs, fox holes, and ditches were filled. There was some resistance from the terrorists at the start of this campaign but it was soon overcome. A large number of terrorist casualties, the number not estimated yet, was observed. The security forces have now returned to camp.

In both operations, the Jaffna Fort and Palaly areas, a large quantity of arms and ammuntion was recovered. In the Palaly offensive four security persons received minor injuries. In the chest clinic offensive no security force personnel were injured.

Destroy, Occupy LTTE 'Bases'

BK071518 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1404 GMT 7 Feb 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 07 (LANKA PUWATH) — Government troops today completely destroyed several bases belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the Jaffna peninsula and Mannar in north west Sri Lanka, the Media Centre told LANKA PUWATH. These bases were at Vasavilan, Palaly, Urthapuram, Pandivirichchau, Paratta, Kilinochchi in the north and Mantai and Nannaddan in Mannar.

Two LTTE area leaders in Kilinochchi were killed and at Murunkan seven terrorists were killed. In these encounters four servicemen were killed and six wounded.

Troops are occupying these bases now.

'Terrorist' Village 'Massacre' Kills 27

BK080807 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0748 GMT 08 Feb 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 08 (LANKA PUWATH) — Separatist terrorists entered the traditional Sinhala village of Arantalawa, Ampara, eastern Sri Lanka last night and hacked to death 27 sleeping villagers including five women and ten children. One person and a child survived the massacre, the Media Centre told LANKA PUWATH.

Intercepted radio messages state that this massacre was ordered by Prabhakaran in order to cause rioting and acts of violence in the rest of the country so as to both cover his military losses as well as to gain world sympathy which he has lost.

Prabhakaran had also rejected the government proposals made on 19/12/86 for a separate provincial council for Ampara District, a predominantly Sinhala area.

AFP Reports Further

BK080628 Hong Kong AFP in Enlgish 0616 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Colombo, Feb 8 (AFP) — Militant Tamil separatists killed 28 Sinhalese when they attacked a village in eastern Ampara District, officials said here Sunday. [passage omitted] "Not a single person died of bullet wounds which indicates this was a systematic slaughter," one official said.

The village is about six miles (nine kilometres) from Ampara on the road to Maha Oya. A similar attack Wednesday in the same district left 15 people dead.

Government sources said this second attack on a mainly Sinhalese village in three days showed the separatists, suspected to belong to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, were trying to drive non-Tamils away from the area. [passage omitted] The government has proposed a certain degree of autonomy for the northern province around Jaffna, but opposes the Tamil demand for a merger of the northern and eastern provinces with its mixed population of Tamils, Sinhalese, and Moslems.

Tamil sources said the attacks might be in response to the alleged killing of a large number of Tamil civilians by police commandos at Kokkadichcholai, north of Ampara, late last month. The Batticaloa citizen's committee charged that the commandos had killed some 200 Tamils during an attack on an LTTE base there.

The government has denied this charge saying only four civilians

were killed when the police attacked and over-run the LTTE's main eastern base.

Manwhile the Indian High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit returned to Colombo Saturday night reportedly to convey India's concern over the alleged killing of Tamil civilians. Mr Dixit, who made no comment on his discussions in New Delhi, is expected to meet with President Junius Jayewardene Sunday or Monday.

Security Forces 'Moving In'
BK080816 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0743 GMT 8 Feb 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 08 (LANKA PUWATH) — The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are suffering heavy casualties and losses including bases in Batticaloa, Mannar, Killinochchi, and Jaffna District. The LTTE is killing men, women, and children in remote villages in Ampara and Pottuvil as that of Arantalawa and Mahanaagapura respectively, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH.

Intercepted radio messages state that Prabhakaran ordered such massacres in order to force the Sinhala and Muslim people to take strong action against innocent people of other communities. Then the world opinion which Sri Lanka has won back after 1983 will be lost.

The heavy military set backs suffered by the LTTE will be forgotten by such acts of provocation of innocent people by the acts of violence on Sinhala villages.

The government will take all measures to strengthen the defences of outlying villages of Ampara and Pottuvil. The security forces are already moving in.

Troops Comb Jungles for 'Terrorists'
BK090946 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0735 GMT 9 Feb 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 09 (LANKA PUWATH) — Government troops are combing the jungles around Arranthalawa, Ampara, eastern Sri Lanka to capture terrorists who massacred 28 civilians on Saturday night. The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that several terrorists were believed killed and other terrorists wounded in a confrontation with the troops during the combing out operation. Terrorists have taken cover in the deep jungles. Troops are pursuing. A serviceman was killed by terrorist fire during the operation.

At Parappukanthan, Mannar, north west Sri Lanka yesterday evening six terrorists were killed when troops opened fire at a terrorist gang. Terrorists fired mortars and a serviceman was killed and five others wounded. Troops recovered landmines, bombs, and explosives yesterday at Mantai, Pandiwiridran, and Manaathan in Mannar yesterday.

At Uruthirapuram, Kilinochchi, northern Sri Lanka, troops occupied the LTTe headquarters yesterday. Meanwhile, troops continued to patrol the areas of Kattuwan and Kurumbasetty in Jaffna District, northern Sri Lanka, yesterday.

Canadian Engineer Held Since December Released

NC081845 Paris AFP in English 1841 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 8 (AFP) — Philip Engs, a Canadian engineer arrested here in December, was released Sunday, and the Danish Embassy is trying to secure his rapid departure from Iran, Danish diplomats announced.

Mr Engs, employed by the Schlumberger Oil Exploration Group, was arrested for unknown reasons when he arrived in Iran. The Danish Embassy acts for Canadian interests in Iran.

Mr Engs' release follows the freeing last Thursday of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Gerald Seib, who was arrested a week earlier on spying charges.

Four foreigners are still held in Iran, including Briton John Cooper, a commercial representative for *The Financial Times* who is accused of working for British intelligence. Mr Cooper, jailed since December 1985, confessed to the charges on Iranian television last week.

Another Briton, Nicolas Yannis Nicolas, was arrested last November, and two Americans are also in jail. One of the Americans, John Pattis, was jailed in July 1986 after a bomb attack at the broadcasting station he was working for near Tehran. The other American has not been named and there are no details on his case.

Daily Covers Interview With Accused UK Spy

LD071924 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7, IRNA — The Persian daily *Keyhan* covered the text of an interview with Roger Cooper, a British prisoner in Tehran facing charges of spying for the British government. In the interview Cooper, 51, confessed to having been a spy in Iran both before and after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution.

Cooper said that largely due to his long period of residence in Iran and also because of his regular contacts with Iranian Government ministries during the past regime, he had gained access to and gathered vital information to the British government. He said in the interview that he had stayed in Tehran for about 20 years, that he had studied Persian literature at Tehran University, and got his Master's degree in the field some years ago.

Cooper said that because he knows Persian and English, he worked for various government organizations in Iran as a translator. He said he had translated or composed English texts for many government ministries in the pre-revolution era in Iran among them the Royal Courthouse, Ministry of Culture and Arts, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Ministry, and even the joint Staff Command of the Imperial Armed Forces of Iran (during the past regime). He said because of his close association [with] those government organizations in the pre-revolution era in Iran, he easily collected vital information and data and provided some to the 'BIS' [British intelligence service] of Britain.

The British agent said that the post-revolution attitude towards foreigners in Iran and also the policies of the Islamic government make spying an extremely difficult task in Iran. He said the revolutionary fervour in Iran and the post-revolution mentality of the masses defy all previous calculations of the Britons about the Islamic government and the Iranians.

As one instance he said the steadfastness of the Iranian people in the post-revolution era and their perseverence in the war as well as their insistance on a continued war with the ruling regime in Iraq has clearly disproved previous calculations of the Middle East political strategists of Britain.

Cooper's interview in English was carried on the English language service of the Iranian television Thursday.

Cooper's Detention 'Protested'

NC071954 Paris AFP in English 1944 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Tehran, Feb 7 (AFP) — Iranian television on Saturday broadcast a new interview with detained British businessman John Cooper in which he again acknowledged Iranian charges that he had spied in Iran for British intelligence. [passage omitted] He twice referred, in English, to an organisation he identified as the British intelligence service. A similar purported confession was broadcast in English last Thursday.

Mr. Cooper was arrested in Iran on December 7 1985 but spent a year in jail before being formally accused of spying. A date for his trial has yet to be announced.

On Friday, the British Foreign Office strongly protested at his detention to the Iranian charge d'affaires in London, Akhunzadeh Mahdi. British officials, as well as contesting allegations that Mr Cooper has spied for Britain, also suggest that the "British intelligence service" is the name for an entirely innocuous commercial service.

The Iranian newspaper *Keyhan* said Saturday it was surprised at the "fuss" made by Britain over the fate of a man it described as "one of the (London) government's most important spies in the Middle East." [sentence as received]

Representatives of the British government have been refused access to Mr Cooper at Evin prison, north of Tehran, although his brother Paul was allowed a visit last month, the Foreign Office said.

Lebanese Hizballah Organ on U.S. Military Presence

NC090812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] *Al-'Ahd*, organ of the Lebanese Hizballah, writes in this week's issue, under the title "The U.S. Sixth Fleet — One Eye on Basra and the Other on the Hostages," that American rhetoric will not gain anything more now than it did in the past. *Al 'Ahd* says: All these futile efforts by the United States are nothing but an attempt at provocation, which should rouse all Muslims and the oppressed of the world to inflict political pressures and

military blows on the United States and its interests everywhere in the world, thus forcing it to retreat and stop this new foolishness. *Al-'Ahd* continues: We know that the United States will not gain the least benefit from this empty display, and it is in the interests of the United States to leave this area before it gets burnt in the fires of hell. The White House planners should have understood the fact that the Muslim nations detest them, condemn their policies, and are prepared to make any sacrifice to defend themselves.

Al-'Ahd concludes: Today the war between the Islamic Revolution, under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, and the United States has entered a sensitive phase. All Muslims and the oppressed of the world are on full alert: They will stand by the Islamic Revolution with all their strength, especially now that the United States, with its military presence, is expecting a sudden outcome to the war imposed by Iraq on Iran. The facts show that this war will, under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, end with Iran's victory, contrary to U.S. interests.

Khamene'i Note Passed to Lebanon's Shams al-Din
LD081412 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Beirut, Feb 8, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to Syria Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari met here Saturday with vice-president of the Supreme Islamic Council of the Shi'ite community of Lebanon Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din and conveyed him a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i concerning the missile attack on his house last week. The latest current developments of Lebanon and crisis of the camps were discussed at the meeting.

Shaykh Shams al-Din lauded Iran's efforts to eliminate enmity among Islamic forces in an attempt to get them to aim their weapons at the Zionist state of Israel. He stressed on the need for carrying-out of all aspects of Iran's peace plan in solving the camps war.

Imam Khomeyni's son Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati also sent messages last week to the Lebanese prominent alim who suffered injuries in the attack. The messages also condemned the Zionist state of Israel.

Amal's Birri Sends Anniversary Messages
LD091044 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 8, IRNA — Head of the Lebanon's Amal Movement, Nabih Birri, in a message to the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, and the Iranian nation Sunday congratulated them on the eighth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. In his message Birri also wished the Muslim forces of Iran victory.

Meanwhile, Birri sent similar messages to Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, President 'Ali Khamene'i, and Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Birri called on Amal officials in southern Lebanon to make arrangement for transfer of food and medicine to Al-Rashidiyah camp in southern Tyre on the occasion of the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

U.S. Sought Turkey's Ozal as Relations Mediator
LD071914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Report by unnamed correspondent in Bonn]

[Text] In the wake of the U.S. setback in connection with the McFarlane scandal, the United States is again trying to establish relations with the Islamic Republic by any possible means, particularly after the impressive victories achieved by the Islamic combatants on the battlefronts, including those gained during the Karbala'-5 and 6 operations.

In this connection, Turkish papers published in West Germany have revealed that during Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit to the United States and his meeting with President Reagan, Reagan asked him to exert efforts to establish relations between the United States and the Islamic Republic and bring the two countries closer, thereby playing the role of mediator.

Poland's Orzechowski Leaves; Velayati Comments
LD061121 Tehran IRNA in English 1102 GMT 06 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 6, IRNA — The Polish foreign minister, Marian Orzechowski, left here in the midnight Thursday after three days of talks with high-ranking Iranian officials, including the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister.

Orzechowski led a political-economic delegation to Tehran and in conclusion of its visit, a letter of understanding was signed for expansion of mutual ties in political, economic, and cultural areas. The letter was signed by Iran's ambassador to Poland, Abolfazl Rahnama and his Polish counterpart Tadeusz Kohorewicz.

During the visit of the Polish foreign minister, Iran's Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi was invited to visit Poland which was accepted.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in an interview before the departure of Orzechowski, that in talks with the Polish delegation, "we emphasized that we want sound relations with the Third World countries and all world nations which are ready to establish healthy ties with the Islamic Republic." Velayati added that the Polish delegation had been explained the reasons that Iran wants to put a victorious end to its defensive war with Iraq. The foreign minister also said that Iran will export oil and some agricultural products to Poland.

The Polish foreign minister also expressed hope in an interview that, high level diplomatic talks would be held between the two countries in the future. Orzechowski also said that meetings between parliamentary officials of the two countries will take place in the future. The Polish foreign minister said also that he

was opposed to the war, attacks on civilian areas, and deployment of chemical weapons.

Ardabili Notes Terms for Peace With Iraq

LD072024 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7, IRNA — Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdulkarim Musavi Ardabili said here Saturday that the Islamic Republic is fighting Iraq's Ba'th Party, the agent of global arrogance, and there is no difference between the Iranian and Iraqi peoples.

Speaking at a round-table conference, attended by members of the Supreme Judiciary Council (SJC) and foreign guests who are here on the occasion of the Ten-Day-Dawn, the chief justice said "we are defending our country against an aggressor which still has parts of Iranian territory under its occupation."

Ayatollah Ardabili said that Iran's Muslim forces are fighting, in order not to capture Iraqi soil but rather chase and punish the aggressor (Iraq) which had imposed a war on the Islamic Republic.

The Baghdad regime by making peace proposals is actually planning to avoid punishment and get an opportunity to reorganize its beaten Army for another aggression on Iran so that a situation of neither peace nor war would prevail, he said.

Referring to the identification and punishment of the aggressor as Iran's major condition for ending the imposed war, the ayatollah said that they wanted Iran to accept cease-fire and start negotiating with Iraq. "Have they not come to realize who has initiated the war?... Is not there any valid reason for trying the aggressor?" he asked.

Ayatollah Ardabili stressed "those who are now calling on the Islamic Republic to accept peace turned a deaf ear to us when Iraq launched its aggression against us." "We are ready to accept peace only on the basis of equality and justice but not in tyrranical or bullying manner," noted Ardabili.

The ayatollah furthermore said that atrocities perpetrated by Iraq such as its air attacks on Iranian civilian areas and its use of chemical weapons indicate that the Baghdad regime is now in its shakiest position more than ever before.

World governments make peace proposals to the Islamic Republic whenever they see Iranian combatants advancing on the battlefields but keep silent on repeated Iraqi violations of all international conventions, he said.

Commenting on the latest developments in the country's judicial system since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Ardabili said despite the current difficulties, drastic changes have been made in the judicial system over the past eight years and that the shari'ah laws of Islam prevail.

Another speaker was prosecutor general Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'ini who said that making the judicial system independent was the first step taken by the Islamic Republic in this respect. He noted that the judicial system had been void of any power during the former regime.

The independence of the judicial system is so complete that neither the executive nor the legislative branches are capable of influencing it, Kho'ini said.

The prosecutor general noted that to amend the laws according to the dictates of Islam was another important move taken and is still going on in the country's judicial system.

Another lecturer was SJC member Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Bojnurdi who said that all non Muslims can live in peace in Iran as long as they do not act against the Islamic Republic.

Jordanian, Egyptian Officers Killed in Iraq

LD071048 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that following the warning issued by Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries to foreign military personnel cooperating with the Baghdad regime, two military officials of the Jordanian and Egyptian regimes have been killed in Baghdad. The Arabic-language *Liwa al-Sadr*, citing travellers who recently arrived in Europe from Baghdad, reports that Mahmud 'Abd al-Salaam, a Jordanian officer, and Mahmud Isma'il, an Egyptian colonel, were killed by opponents of the Saddam regime.

Gas Leaking From Basra Petrochemical Complex

LD071523 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb 7, IRNA — Toxic gases are leaking from reservoirs of Iraqi petro-chemical complex in Basra since part of them exploded in daily artillery exchanges between Iranian combatants and Iraqi troops.

According to reports reaching here from Karbala'-5 operational region the gases cause the eyes to burn and the body to itch. Effects of the gases are even felt in the northeastern operational region along the Fish Lake banks. The reports said density of the leaking gases is so high in Bawarin and Umm al-Tuwaylah Islands that Iranian combatants have to use anti-chemical gear and equipment to neutralise them.

An anti-chemical specialist told IRNA Saturday that the composition of these gases is unknown. He called on chemical specialists of international petro-chemical institutes to determine the type of gases as well as ways the reservoirs could be safely shut down or destroyed.

Further on Karbala' 5, 6 Combat Operations

Iraqis Damage Tabriz University

LD061636 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 6, IRNA — Intruding Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas of Tabriz, east Azarbayjan Province,

at 11 hours local time (7:30 GMT) Friday. Part of Tabriz University was damaged and several civilians were wounded in the raid.

'Intruding' Iraqi Plane Downed
LD061645 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] According to a Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarter's report, an intruding Iraqi aircraft was downed at 1724 today, thanks to the antiaircraft fire in the Karbala'-5 operational region. The total figure for enemy aircraft downed since the start of Karbala'-5 operations has reached 76.

Iraqi Casualties in Ilam, Bakhtaran
LD061810 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, 6 Feb IRNA — Fourty Iraqi Ba'thists were killed and wounded in Bakhtaran and Ilam during the past twenty four hours. During the period five single bunkers, two tanks, one 106 mm gun, and a munitions depot were destroyed.

Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of various cities in Ilam and Bakhtaran Provinces five times over the same period, but were each time forced to flee.

Iraqis Bomb Qom, Tabriz, Esfahan
LD070542 Tehran IRNA in English 0538 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7, IRNA — Iraqi war planes bombed residential areas of the holy city of Qom at 00:47 hours local time Saturday (21:17 hours GMT Friday). Several civilians were martyred or injured in the attack.

Meanwhile, Iraqi war planes bombarded residential areas of the cities of Tabriz and Esfahan at 22:00 hours local time (18:30 GMT), Friday. In these barbarous attacks several civilians were martyred or injured.

Iraqi MiG Downed in Khuzestan
LD071018 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7, IRNA — An Iraqi MiG-23 fighter was downed by the air defence units of the Muslim forces of Iran in northern Khuzestan Friday night.

The plane had carried out air raids on residential areas of the Iranian cities of Tabriz and Esfahan. It was downed while fleeing Iranian air space. There is no report yet available on the fate of the aircraft's pilot.

Iraqi Planes Downed Total 77
LD071336 Tehran IRNA in English 1329 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb 7, IRNA — Another Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the Karbala'-5 operational theater Saturday, bringing to 77 the number of enemy jet fighters downed since the start of the Karbala'-5 operations January 9.

The plane, a Sukhoi-22 jet fighter was downed before it could bomb Iranian positions in the operational theater.

Iraqi Warplane Downed Over Arak
LD071606 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the city of Arak, Central Province, Saturday after it had bombed residential areas of that central city at 11:47 GMT the same day.

This brings to two the number of Iraqi planes downed in Arak over the past six days. The first plane was downed on 2nd February.

Iraqi Counteroffensive 'Smashed'
LD071708 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Feb 7, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants smashed a two-pronged Iraqi counter-offensive in the Karbala'-5 operational theater Saturday morning, killing or wounding 700 Iraqi soldiers and destroying 10 enemy tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

Announcing this, Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters said that the rest of the Iraqi troops were forced to leave the war theater after their abortive counterattack, backed by armoured units and artillery fire, had been totally smashed.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' is the joint headquarters of Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Iraqi Planes Bomb Dezful 7 Feb
LD081211 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, at 2145 last night, the resisting city of Dezful was attacked by aircraft of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq causing martyrdom and injury of a number of our fellow countrymen.

Baghdad Residents Warned of Attack
LD080656 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 8, IRNA — In retaliation for Saturday Iraqi air raids on Iranian cities, predetermined targets in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad will be attacked in future hours.

The War Information Headquarters in a statement issued here Sunday morning called on Baghdad residents to immediately evacuate the city in order to remain safe.

The Muslim forces of Iran, it added, will severely continue their reprisal attacks as long as the Iraqi regime continues its attacks on Iranian residential areas.

Communique No 2,739

LD061646 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 6, IRNA — An Iranian mid-range missile was fired at Iraqi military-economic targets in Khanaqin at 8:00 hours (4:30 GMT) Friday inflicting heavy material and troop casualties on the enemy, according to Joint Staff Communique No 2,739 here.

The communique said that Iranian Muslim combatants shot down an Iraqi reconnaissance helicopter escorted by a helicopter gunship in Basra operational region Thursday.

The Iranian Navy intercepted a foreign cargo ship suspected of carrying cargo for Iraq and escorted her to a southern port for further inspection, said the communique.

Elsewhere, the communique said long-range artillery fire on the Muslim combatants continued to rain Iraqi eco-military centers in the border cities Thursday and Friday inflicting considerable damage on the enemy. [sentence as received]

In exchange of artillery fire in southern fronts being, which was more intense in Zeydi, Chazabeh and Zobeydah, Iranian combatants destroyed several Iraqi heavy engineering vehicles, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers, the communique said. [sentence as received]

Several Iraqi tanks were destroyed when enemy positions in Yabis, Jofeyr, Zeydi, Pich-e Angizeh, and Sharhani came under Iranian artillery fire, said the communique. Iranian forces also destroyed several enemy munitions dumps in western and northwestern fronts, it added.

Several civilians were martyred and wounded as a result of Iraqi bombardments of Iranian residential areas in Qom, Central Province, and Tabriz, east Azarbayjan Province, Thursday and Friday, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,740

LD071635 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7, IRNA — Some civilians were martyred and wounded in Iraqi bombings of the Iranian cities of Tabriz, Esfahan, Qom, Baneh, Marivan, Arak, Piranshahr, Borujerd and Pol-e Dokhtar Friday night and Saturday, said a military communique here Saturday.

Communique Number 2,740 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that a mid-range surface-to-surface Iranian missile hit a target in the Iraqi city of Khanaqin at 05:18 hours local time (01:48 GMT) Saturday, inflicting heavy losses.

An Iraqi Sukhoi-22 fighter plane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in a southern operational theater at 14:20 hours local time (10:50 GMT) Saturday.

Iran's Muslim forces launched a surprise attack on Iraqi troops in Panjwin, northwestern fronts early Friday killing a large number of Iraqi soldiers and seizing a considerable amount of enemy weapons and ammunition. The Iranian forces returned safely to their positions after the assault.

On Friday, Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions and armoured units east of Basra and returned safely to bases. An Iraqi warplane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire of Iranian Muslim combatants in the afore-said region at 13:54 GMT Friday.

Iranian long-range artillery fire continued shelling Iraqi industrial and military targets in 'Ali al-Gharbi, Sulaymaniyah, Chuwartah, Shanahdari, Dujaylah, and Khurmal Friday and Saturday, setting ablaze parts of them and inflicting heavy casualties on Iraqi troops.

In the western fronts on Friday, Iranian forces suppressed Iraqi engineering operations in areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin and halted movement of enemy vehicle columns in Mehran, inflicting several casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Movement of Iraqi supply columns were checked in Badrah and Zurbatiyah on Friday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Friday raging somewhat more heavily in Sharhani, Zeyd, and Kushk. In Nahr-e Anbar and Yabis, Iranian armoured units shelled Iraqi tanks on Friday silencing their fire and setting afire a few of them.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses and parts of their positions were set ablaze in parts of the southern and western fronts Friday as they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces. A convoy of Iraqi forces was forced to flee while suffering casualties in the said fronts Friday.

Iran's Navy gun boats intercepted and inspected eight cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed the ships to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying any war-related cargo for Iraq, the communique concluded.